

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-5

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD AMENDING ARTICLE VI OF THE LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE BY REVISING CHAPTER 4 RELATING TO SOLICITORS, PEDDLERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF COMMERCIAL HANDBILLS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lakewood seeks to protect the peace, privacy, and safety of its residents while preserving the rights of individuals to engage in lawful commercial solicitation, peddling, and handbill distribution; and

WHEREAS, the City has received concerns from residents and businesses regarding unwanted and aggressive soliciting, peddling, and handbill distribution activities occurring within residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that regulating the time, place, and manner in which soliciting, peddling, and handbill distribution occur is necessary to deter conduct that infringes on residents' privacy, safety, and quiet enjoyment of their property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that establishing clear hours of operation, requiring visible identification, and mandating respect for "No Soliciting" or "No Trespassing" signs are reasonable measures that balance the interests of businesses and solicitors with the rights of residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Lakewood Municipal Code to enhance provisions governing solicitors, peddlers, and distributors of commercial handbills, to ensure such activities are conducted lawfully, responsibly, and with due regard for the rights and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determines that these amendments are necessary to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. INTENT. Article VI Business License Law of the Lakewood Municipal Code is hereby amended as provided in this Ordinance to provide legislative remedies to deter and address unwanted and aggressive soliciting, peddling and handbill distribution within the City of Lakewood.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Ordinance is to prohibit solicitors, peddlers and handbill distributors from engaging in unwanted and aggressive tactics and establish specified days and hours lawfully permitted solicitors, peddlers and handbill distributors may solicit, peddle or distribute handbills.

SECTION 3. Subsection J of Section 6403.8 of the Lakewood Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

J. Solicitors, Peddlers and Distributors of Commercial Handbills.

1. Permit. All solicitors or peddlers, except commercial travelers or other persons selling or soliciting, or peddling goods, wares, merchandise or services to commercial or business houses or establishments, professional or business offices, or industrial or manufacturing offices, businesses or plants or yards shall before so soliciting or peddling have a valid unexpired permit to do so issued by the Director of Finance as provided in this Article. All distributors of commercial handbills shall have before so distributing commercial handbills a valid unexpired permit to do so issued by the Director of Finance as provided in this Article.

2. Application. In addition to the requirements set forth in Chapter 3, the applicant shall set forth the following:

(a) Name and permanent home address of each solicitor.

(b) Length of time for which right to do business is desired.

(c) The name and address of the employer or the person, firm or corporation for whom said solicitor is performing his services.

(d) The name and address of the person, firm or corporation where further development, consummation or completion of the services performed by said solicitor will be done, the proposed method of delivery to the purchaser or consumer, and the length of time within which the delivery will be made.

(e) The nature of the type of soliciting to be performed. In other words, whether said soliciting is for the sale of goods, and, if so, the general description of the type of goods to be sold; or, whether the soliciting is for the sale of services to be performed in the future, and, if so, the type of services sought to be sold, and the time and place for possible future performance.

(f) Two photographs of the applicant taken within sixty (60) days immediately prior to the filing of the application, which pictures shall be 2" x 2" showing the head and shoulders in a clear and distinguishing manner.

3. Application Fee. Every person filing an application for a solicitor's, peddler's, or distributor's permit under this subsection shall file with said application a fee in such sum as determined by the Director of Finance, not to exceed \$10.00 per application, which shall NOT be refundable under any circumstances. This fee is in addition to the license fee required by Chapter 5. The purpose of the application fee is to help defer the cost of the investigation of the applicant. The fee herein provided is required notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article to the contrary.

Schools and non-profit organizations shall be exempt from paying any fee to obtain a permit as required in this section for soliciting or distributing handbills for the purpose of fundraising or other activity directly related to the purpose of the organization.

4. Permit. Each permit shall show the name and address of each solicitor permittee and have attached thereto a picture of said permittee in addition to other matters which business permits require to show pursuant to the provisions of the Code.

5. Unlawful activity. It is unlawful for any person within the City of Lakewood to engage in the activity of soliciting, peddling, or distributing commercial handbills as defined in this Code unless said person has a valid permit to do so in accordance with the terms and provisions of this chapter and said person has upon his person or with him an identification card showing the existence of such a valid permit. It is unlawful for any such person to fail or refuse to show said identification card upon demand for display of the same by any law enforcement agent of the City of Lakewood or by any person when said solicitor, peddler or distributor of commercial handbills is performing the acts herein subject to permit upon any private premise as herein defined.

6. Prohibited hours and days. It is unlawful for any person to solicit, peddle or distribute handbills between the hours of seven p.m. and eight a.m., Monday – Saturday, and anytime on Sunday and holidays.


7. Obedience to signs. No person shall solicit or peddle upon any private premises if requested by anyone thereon not to do so, or if there is placed on said premises in a conspicuous place near the entrance thereof, a sign bearing the words: "No Trespassing," "No Soliciting," "No Peddlers or Agents," "No Advertisement," or any similar notice, indicating in any manner that the occupants of said premises do not desire to be molested or have their right of privacy disturbed.

8. Request to Leave. It is unlawful for any person to offer for sale, demonstrate, attempt to sell, or to solicit or attempt to solicit orders for goods, wares or merchandise of any kind or character, or any article, material or substances, or any services, at or in any residence, dwelling, flat or apartment after having been requested to cease such attempts or refuses to leave such residence, dwelling, flat or apartment by any resident of such premise.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases or portions thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 9th day of December, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Council Member Wood	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Council Member Croft	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Council Member Arellano	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Council Member Rogers	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Mayor Chase	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

  
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Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk